
REMARKS

In an Office Action dated July 21, 2003, the Examiner has rejected claims 5, 7-8, 13-19, and 21 in the pending application. Claims 1-4, 6, 9-12 and 20 were allowed. By amendment above, claims 5, 7, 13, 18 and 21 have been rewritten. Support for the amendments in claims 5, 7, 13, 18 and 21 can be found on page 14, lines 10-21.

Reconsideration of this application and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

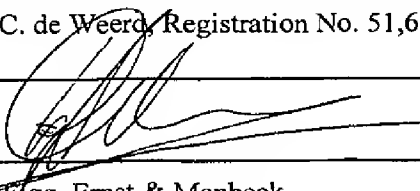
Claims 5, 7-8, 13-19, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, because the specification does not reasonably provide enablement for the claimed invention. The Examiner asserts that claim 5 lacks enablement because while the specification is enabling for a phenol novolak epoxy-curing agent comprised of one or two of melamine and benzoguanamine, and a compound obtained from a condensation reaction of phenols and formaldehyde, the specification does not provide enablement for an epoxy-curing agent selected from the group consisting of melamine, benzoguanamine, a compound obtained from a condensation reaction of phenols and formaldehydes, and combinations thereof. The specification according to the Examiner thus fails to disclose the individual use of melamine, benzoguanamine, a compound obtained from a condensation reaction of phenols and formaldehydes, or combinations thereof. Furthermore, the Examiner also asserts that claims 5, 7-8, 13-19 and 21 lack enablement because the specification is enabling only for a phenol novolak epoxy-resin curing agent containing triazine rings within its molecule, wherein the phenol novolak has a nitrogen content of 5 to 25

wt%. According to the Examiner the specification is not enabling for a phenol novolak epoxy-curing agent having any nitrogen content.

Applicants submit that claim 5 has been amended to a resin composition wherein the epoxy resin curing agent is a phenol novolak epoxy-curing agent comprising (a) one or two of melamine and benzoguanamine, and (b) a compound obtained from a condensation reaction of phenols and formaldehydes. In addition, applicants have amended claims 5, 7, 13, and 21 to a resin composition or a method of producing a resin composition, wherein the phenol novolak epoxy resin curing agent has a nitrogen content of 5 to 25 wt%. Therefore, applicants submit that claims 5, 7, 13 and 21, as amended, are enabled by the specification. Similarly, claims 8, and 14-19 are enabled by the specification by virtue of their dependency. Thus claims 5, 7-8, 13-19 and 21, as amended, are enabled by the specification, as under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and favorable action are earnestly requested.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,					
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